



Henry County, Virginia

E-Newsletter from the official website of Henry County, VA

Henry County Monthly Newsletter

October 2010

Community urged to celebrate Halloween on November 1

Martinsville and Henry County citizens are urged to celebrate Halloween a day later than normal this year.

Halloween falls on Sunday, October 31 this year. Traditionally the Martinsville-Henry County area has not celebrated the event on a Sunday in order to avoid conflicts with other community events.

This year both the Henry County Board of Supervisors and the Martinsville City Council, after consulting with their respective law enforcement agencies, voted to ask citizens to move their celebration to Monday, November 1.

Dick and Willie Trail to officially open October 11

Martinsville-Henry County's newest recreational facility will be officially unveiled Monday, October 11.

The Dick and Willie Trail is a 4.5-mile walking and biking trail that runs from near El Parral Restaurant in Collinsville, through the City of Martinsville, to the Mulberry Creek in Henry County.

Monday's event will begin at 1:30 p.m. and will be held at the Liberty Street trail head, near the intersection of Liberty Street and Stultz Road.

The cost of the Trail is \$1.4 million and completely funded by grants. The grant money came from the federal government, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Virginia Tobacco Commission. In-kind contributions were received from the City of Martinsville, Henry County, and the Henry County Public Service Authority.

The Dick and Willie Trail is part of the larger Virginia vision for a Beaches To Bluegrass Trail Network. It ties into the City's spur trail leading to uptown Martinsville.

Eventually the new trail will tie into the Fieldale Trail and the new Smith River Sports Complex, dependent on funding. It will be operated by the Henry County Parks and Recreation Department.

Monday's event will culminate four years of work by many different groups, including the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails, the Henry County Board of Supervisors, Martinsville City Council, the Henry County Public Service Authority, the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Virginia Tobacco Commission, Congressman Rick Boucher, and Congressman Tom Perriello.

Other partners include Sowers Construction (general contractor), Anderson and Associates (designer), Hooker Furniture (donation of right of way), Univar (donation of right of way), and Norfolk Southern Railway.

The trail uses a former stretch of the Danville & Western rail line which was later acquired by Norfolk Southern Railway. That train line was referred to as the "Dick and Willie" by locals.

Household Hazardous Waste Day set for October 16

This fall's Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held Saturday, October 16, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The event will be held at Henry County Service Center located at 2285 Fairy Stone Park Highway, across from Bassett Office Supply. The service is free and available to all residents of Henry County and Martinsville. No items from businesses or industries will be accepted.

Local residents can use the event to get rid of caustic household items that they cannot deposit in local Convenience Centers. These items may include solvents, paints, fuels (including gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, heating oil, boat fuel, and chainsaw fuels), lead-acid batteries, and computers.

Items that cannot be brought to Household Hazardous Waste Day include smoke detectors, compressed gas cylinders, explosives or shock-sensitive materials, radioactive materials, infectious or biologically active materials, household cleaners, pesticides, drain cleaners, herbicides, fluorescent light bulbs, gas tanks, and oil tanks. Any items brought after 12 noon will not be accepted.

Supporters of this event include Environmental Solutions, EMI Recycling, Gateway Streetscape Foundation, the City of Martinsville, and Henry County. For more information, contact Henry County's Mike Amos at 634-2503.

PART has record month

The Piedmont Area Regional Transit (PART) bus system has zoomed past its previous record for riders, according to the most recent 30-day period completed in September.

According to figures provided by RADAR of Roanoke, which manages the local system, ridership reached 1,439 for the 30-day period which ended September 24. That number easily topped the previous record of 1,187 riders on the August report.

The most recent ridership total included 766 riders in the City of Martinsville and 673 riders in Henry County. The most popular pickup spot in Martinsville was at Liberty Fair Mall with 114 riders. The most popular pickup spot in Henry County was at Patrick Henry Community College with 188 riders.

The PART system also has tweaked its route again to add a stop at the Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services. That change took effect September 27.

PART is a fixed-route system that runs 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The system began operations in January 2009. It is managed by RADAR of Roanoke, a non-profit organization that has organized and maintained both public and private human service transportation for more than 30 years.

The current route schedule is posted on Henry County's website - www.henrycountyva.gov - and the City of Martinsville's website - www.martinsville-va.gov - and is available at the County Administration Building and the City Municipal Building. It's also available on RADAR's website - www.radartransit.org.

For more information, please contact Leon Towarnicki, the City of Martinsville's Director of Public Works at (276) 403-5154; Lee Clark, Henry County's Director of Planning, Zoning & Inspection at (276) 634-4620; or Leon Robertson, RADAR at (800) 964-5707 Ext. 105.

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